



REGIONAL NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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USDA TO CONDUCT SURVEY ON CROP PRODUCTION

DENVER, COLORADO – From August through November, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its monthly Agricultural Yield Surveys. NASS will reach out to hundreds of producers in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming to accurately measure row crops and hay production throughout the growing season. August is also the final month small grains production data is collected in the monthly Ag Yield Survey.

"The Agricultural Yield Survey is the primary tool used by NASS to track and report monthly crop yield changes that may occur due to weather, pests or other factors," said Bill Meyer, Director of the NASS Mountain Regional Field Office. "By responding to this survey, farmers will provide data that allows the USDA to accurately track crop production throughout the growing season."

All sectors of the agricultural industry rely on NASS yield and production estimates to make sound business decisions. Producers use the estimates to develop marketing plans for their operations and determine what to produce and how and when to sell it. Agribusinesses that provide inputs and services to producers also use the estimates to develop future marketing strategies. USDA agencies use the crop yield data to determine crop insurance and disaster aid payments along with other program benefits.

The initial survey asks farmers how many acres of row crops and hay they intend to harvest, and their expected yield per acre. In subsequent months, NASS asks the same farmers to update their expected yield per acre. This ensures the information collected captures any month-to-month changes. For their convenience, survey participants will have the option to respond by phone, online, or by mail.

"This is a great opportunity for all farmers who receive the survey to make an impact, both locally and at the national level, which is why I hope every farmer will take the opportunity and respond to this important survey," said Meyer.

NASS will compile, analyze and publish survey results in the monthly *Crop Production* report. All Crop Production reports are available online at <http://www.nass.usda.gov>. For more information about the Agricultural Yield Survey, visit www.nass.usda.gov and for state specific questions please contact:

Arizona – Dave DeWalt	1-800-645-7286
Colorado – Bill Meyer	1-800-392-3202
Montana – Eric Sommer	1-800-835-2612
New Mexico – Longino Bustillos	1-800-530-8810
Utah – John Hilton	1-800-747-8522
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NASS provides accurate, timely, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for "NASS Data User Community."

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